

DATE: July 9, 2018

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 8D: Project and Liaison Activities

RMC ACTIVITIES

Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530):

The Lower LA River Working Group had its last official meeting on February 1, 2018. To highlight the completion of the Plan, a Signing Event took place on Friday April 6, 2018, at the Confluence of the LA River and the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. Upon completion of the Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan, the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) will ensure projects that are subsequently implemented are carried out in accordance with the Plan and that stakeholders continue to have a voice in implementation. In its role as an advisory body, the IAG will provide guidance on issues presented before them, but ultimately, individual entities with jurisdiction along the river corridor including the LA County Flood Control District, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the cities will continue to have decision-making authority.

The IAG is anticipated to meet quarterly starting in Summer/Fall 2018 at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works headquarters in the City of Alhambra. There will be a few committees including:

- Programs/ Policies & Community Engagement
- Public Realm, Environment, Water, Infrastructure
- Public Advisory
- Future Committee TBD (as-needed)

Signing Event, April 6, 2018, South Gate Confluence





Additional information about the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan can be found at: www.lowerlariver.org

All State Conservancies Conference in Long Beach (April 25-27, 2018):

The RMC hosted the annual Spring 2018 State Conservancy retreat on April 25th-27th at the Queen Mary in Long Beach, and included sessions at the Aquarium of the Pacific, a tour of the Lower LA River, the Alamitos Bay, and kayaking through the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Items that were discussed included:

- Goals of State Conservancies
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF): Regional Climate Resilience Program
- Additional (Mitigation Revenue) & Future Funding (Prop. 68)
- Bond Expenditure Period – time available for funding reduced
- Tribal Consultation Policies and Implementation
- Conservancies and State-wide goals on climate change
- Spotlight on recent fires/restoration of land
- How to galvanize the public on Conservation

The consevancies benefit from these yearly gatherings to discuss issues that affect each of us directly and indirectly. There will be another Conservancy Retreat hosted by the San Diego River Conservancy in the Fall of 2018.



Lower LA River Revitalization & Gateway Cities Presentation:

Mark Stanley was invited to be on an Urban Land Institute panel to discuss the recently completed Lower LA River Revitalization Master Plan and was joined by Teresa Villegas of the 1st Supervisorial District. Both provided information about the plans for the Lower section of the LA River and future funding commitments now that the Plan is complete.



Rosemead Grand Opening:

The City of Rosemead celebrated the Grand Opening of Jay Imperial Park on Sunday June 3, 2018. This park was funded in part with Proposition 84 funds and is now a passive recreational walking trail underneath a Southern California Edison (SCE), right-of-way. The RMC was a contributing funder for this project in the amount of \$548,340. The park includes turf, a walking trail around the perimeter of the area, fitness equipment and signage of the passive area. RMC Board Member Margaret Clark was in attendance as well as Mark Stanley and RMC Staff.



Groundwater Festival, WRD, Lakewood, May 14th:

The Water Replenishment District (WRD) proudly hosts an Annual “Treasure Beneath Our Feet” Groundwater Festival. Every year since its inception, the Festival has featured more than 40 educational booths aimed at visitors of all ages.

WRD’s Groundwater Festival aims to educate the public about water, conservation, and a wide variety of environmental issues. During this period of historic drought, public education about conservation and our natural resources is more important than ever. As such, the Groundwater Festival engages people of all ages.



Earth Day 2018, Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Whittier, CA:

On Saturday April 14, 2018, RMC and WCA staff joined the 50+ exhibitors at this year's Earth Day event at the Sanitation Districts' Parking Lot. The event highlighted the importance of water reclamation and recycling and getting out the message about being green in 2018.



Rosemead complete streets, April 7th, 2018-

The County of Los Angeles is currently working on a Phase I of the Rosemead Boulevard Complete Street Improvements project which will enhance safety and access for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit along 2.6-miles of Rosemead Boulevard. This 2.6 mile stretch between Rush St to the north and Gallatin Rd to the south bisects the Whittier Narrows Park and has been declassified from a state highway to a county road. The event highlighted this new opportunity to the public and sought feedback through a field survey.



Arizona Forward Sustainability Summit, May 31, 2018 (Phoenix, Arizona):

Mark Stanley was invited to present at the inaugural Arizona Forward Statewide Sustainability Summit which took place on May 31, 2018 in Phoenix, AZ. The one-day session invited Arizona Forward members and community leaders to join a conversation that will reshape and transform our river corridors. The conference attendees learned about revitalization efforts with their own Santa Cruz River in Tucson, AZ and lessons learned from the recently completed Lower LA River Revitalization Plan.



RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS

De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project (RMC10006): The Deforest Wetlands project has finally been completed and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the completion which took place on June 30, 2018 in the City of Long Beach. RMC Staff attended this event and is proud to have been a funding partner for this project.



Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (14003): The RMC provided a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek extension. The LACC applied for an Urban Greening Grant through the Strategic Growth Council and was awarded the full request in the amount of \$798,815. Additional matching funds were committed by other project partners including the State Coastal Conservancy and the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District). Matching funds provided by the funding partners and the grant funds received by the Strategic Growth Council bring the total project cost to \$1,698,815.

This project includes the creation of a ½ mile permeable walking path and 2,700 linear foot by 6-foot riprap swale constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek.

Due to a change in staff by the LACC, they will submit their request to extend the grant to the Coastal Conservancy, at an upcoming Coastal Conservancy board meeting in 2018. There have also been slight delays due to the approvals required by the Army Corps of Engineers for the construction documents, since the improvements are adjacent to the Compton Creek. In May 2018, two months ago, work begun with grubbing of the site. The LACC will continue the grading and move on to construction of a fence line, retaining wall, and landscaping for a targeted project completion in June 2021. Los Angeles Conservation Corps will be requesting a grant extension through the RMC at the September Board Meeting.

Recycled Water Campus, San Gabriel River Parkway (RMC 17004): Grant was approved by RMC Board and the project is underway. Grant from the RMC is for \$1,000,000.

This project supports low-impact development stormwater management features, such as swales, landscaping and permeable pavements and walkways; a stormwater capture system to augment the recycled water supply and reduce flood risk. In addition, this project will create habitat for Monarch butterflies, a migratory species proposed for endangered species candidate status; and create 3.5 acres of park-like open space with public access to the San Gabriel River. The project includes many interpretive and education aspects with an outdoor amphitheater, demonstration gardens for native plants, eco-friendly gardening, stormwater and butterflies, multi-lingual signage, and other visitor facilities focused on water education, and provides multiple benefits to economically disadvantaged communities. This project is part of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP), fully funded at \$119 million. GRIP broke ground in July 2016.

As of 1st quarter 2018, construction of the overall project is 67% complete with considerable progress on all buildings, including site excavation, iron and steel work, and pouring concrete foundations and walls. WRD participated in several outreach activities for GRIP this past quarter including meeting with elected officials and educating young people and adults about groundwater and water literacy, participating in community events, presenting at conferences, and hosting workshops and events. WRD plans to spend the total of our grant award by the end of 2018.

View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project (RMC17001): The View Park and Recycled Water Development Project is underway, this grant to the City is for 2,000,000 which includes a wildlife corridor project in the City of Signal Hill that will establish a new 1.86 acre park and the associated construction of a recycled water system. The project will reclaim a municipally owned industrial site and provide a recycled water system to serve the proposed park as well as retrofit three existing parks and the Promontory Home Owner's Association common landscaped areas, connect an urban trail system, prevent runoff pollution from contaminating the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and annually save approximately 40 acre feet of potable water.

City of Cudahy Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan (RMC 17003): The City of Cudahy Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan is underway, the RMC Planning grant is for \$ 293,000. The Plan seeks to develop a long range water conservation and park plan to establish a blueprint that will identify and create an inventory of: water efficiency, conservation, runoff, filtration, infiltration, etc. problems and solutions; and sites available for new parks or green space, including pocket parks along the Los Angeles River Bike Path bordering the eastern City boundary. The plan will act as a tool to identify future funding opportunities to perform the necessary infrastructure projects that will address the City's water and park issues. Studies will be performed citywide to explore much needed water and park infrastructure projects. These identified projects and issues will be examined and solutions found based on existing design strategies available in the City's drafted "Green Streets Manual" and "Low Impact Development (LID) Guidelines" specific to managing wet weather and urban runoff. The Long Range Plan will work in collaboration with the LID Guidelines and Green Streets Manual.

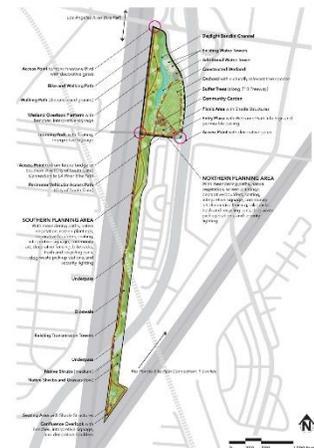
The City of Cudahy has completed the following work tasks: Public Presentation Mobile Open House #1, Public Presentation Mobile Open House #2, Web Survey, coordinated stakeholders and staff comments on Preliminary Long-range Plan, developed Final Draft of Long-range Plan, Public Presentation Mobile Open House #3, screening university students for outreach partnership coordination with General Plan schedule. The final plan is scheduled for completion and adoption by first quarter 2019.

Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project (RMC 17005): Grant from the RMC is for \$652,520, project is underway. This project will enhance campus "green infrastructure", urban habitat, and demonstrate sustainable public landscaping in terms of water use, improved infiltration, and storm water

management. Bassett High School is located in underserved area of La Puente, in San Gabriel River sub watershed. The region's impervious grey infrastructure impairs groundwater recharge and infiltration. Proposed Green Infrastructure retrofits will reduce water use on campus by systematic turf grass reduction: planting over 2700 native, drought-tolerant trees & shrubs in mulched planters to enhance biodiversity, and absorb storm water and run-off. Creating a thriving Urban Forest on campus will clean air and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Urban Heat Island Effect through shade cover. Creation of bioswales, and strategic permeable surface retrofits will collect, capture, and infiltrate storm water from campus preventing runoff from entering storm drain systems and impacting our watershed's health. Interpretive elements will raise awareness of water resources challenges and help create the next generation of environmental stewards. The project will encourage underserved students and community residents to participate in habitat restoration and water resources protection, explore and enjoy the campus, and learn how to connect to the region's surrounding natural areas.

Amigos has finalized an agreement with the school district and has worked with County Public Works to present plans and work with the school district. This past quarter, Amigos met with the physical education teachers to align the design plans with existing sport activities, and modified the initial concept plan as appropriate.

Planning for the Urban Orchard Development (17006): Planning for the Urban Orchard Development grant to the Trust for Public Land is in the amount of \$845,000 and is an exciting project that will transform 30 acres of unused, vacant land between the I-710 Freeway and the LA River into new, critically needed green infrastructure and an urban park, including an urban orchard and over one-mile of new riverfront walking and bike paths. Project deliverables include a detailed concept plan for the entire 30-acre site, a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate stormwater best management practices to be utilized at the site, and a complete set of construction drawings for the upper 18.2 acres of the project area that include an orchard with culturally-relevant tree species, community gathering spaces, picnic areas, interpretive elements, native plants, and walking and bicycle paths that will eventually connect with the existing bike path along the LA River.



West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition (17007): Grant to the City is in the amount of \$2,000,000 for this acquisition. The City of Fullerton is aggressively pursuing funds to acquire 38.3 acres of available remaining undeveloped land that, when acquired, will enable 359 species to thrive and two million residents living within 10 miles to enjoy about 340 acres of the last remaining contiguous natural open space in north Orange County.

The City of Fullerton requests the maximum of \$2 million in land acquisition funding to acquire "Neighborhood 1" of West Coyote Hills. Funding for acquisition of this property would assist in purchasing 10.4 acres of open space adjacent to Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve. This acquisition provides the opportunity to preserve important urban space and contribute to additional natural lands, maintain a wildlife corridor, and restore and sustain important habitat and biological species. The \$2 million granted by the RMC is the first grant received by the city of Fullerton to help fund and successfully acquire the entire eastern half of West Coyote Hills.

The City of Fullerton is awaiting acceptance of additional funding before moving forward with the acquisition. The grant currently expires in December 2018, and City of Fullerton has let RMC know that they will be requesting a grant extension in September.

Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) Project (RMC 17009): The Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Project is underway, this grant to the City is for \$2,000,000 and will improve water quality by intercepting and treating the dry weather flows and a portion of the first flush of stormwater runoff normally discharging into the Los Angeles River. The byproduct of the LB-MUST water quality treatment is recycled water which can be used to sustain proposed wetlands riparian habitat. The wetlands will be part of the total treatment train of the LB-MUST as well as function as a storage basin for the recycled water.

Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project (17011): The Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project grant is to the County of Los Angeles is in the amount of \$268,500 and includes the construction of 30 parkway basins in the unincorporated Los Angeles County. A Parkway is typically defined as the area between a road's curb and the sidewalk. Parkway basins are designed to capture and treat stormwater and dry season flow (urban runoff), utilizing urban runoff for irrigation and facilitating infiltration to groundwater. These basins are constructed by excavating and lowering a portion of parkway, then cutting an opening in the curb to facilitate the flow of water from the street. The basins contain rock reinforced slopes to prevent erosion, along with the vegetation which will detain, remediate, and help infiltrate urban runoff. When a basin is full, any additional urban runoff will be unable to enter and will continue to travel in the gutter eventually to the storm drain system. Parkway basins have been successfully constructed for many years in numerous cities including: Tucson, Arizona; New York City; Portland, Oregon; and other municipalities. Locally, parkway basins have been constructed successfully in Panorama City and Studio City.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition of the Bryant Properties (RMC 17013): This grant to the LCWA is in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) currently owns approximately 172 acres of coastal wetland habitat within the Lower San Gabriel River watershed in the Cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the LCWA is seeking to acquire the frontage and remaining Bryant-Dakin, LLC Properties located along 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue in the City of Long Beach, totaling approximately 18 acres (Los County Assessor Parcel Nos 7237-020-053 and 7237-020-054). The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2nd Street/Westminster Avenue and the east parcel is approximately 6 acres located on the isthmus just north of the LCWA Property on the east side of the San Gabriel River.

LCWA received approval from the Department of General Services on an appraisal report on the Bryant Properties. Their next step is to move into final negotiations with the land owner to acquire the properties.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project (17014): This grant is to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands is one of the last remaining estuarine systems in southern California, located in the Cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach. The LCWA recently adopted the Final Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) in August 2015 with the next step being environmental review of the CRP. The LCWA is seeking grants funds to complete the environmental review of the CRP which is required to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Environmental review of the CRP's three proposed alternatives or a hybrid alternative may result in joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

The project is just beginning and so far LCWA has reviewed project model and identified deficiencies, reviewed GIS data, Kick-off meeting coordination, attendance, and follow-up on action items, has prepared subconsultant agreements, held 2 Bi-weekly calls, and developed their public outreach strategy.

Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Project (RMC 17017):

Grant to the City of Lynwood in the amount of \$1,692,575. The Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration, and Water Quality Improvement Project will replace the parking lot asphalt at Lynwood Park with permeable pavers; establishment of green space with native plants and shrubs in the parking lot perimeter; and installation of a bio-swale along the parking lot median, to improve stormwater management. This project is part of the Gateway Cities Regional Recycled Water System Expansion Project. The City of Lynwood along with 2 other cities in the southeast area of Los Angeles County and Central Basin received a grant to complete the design for an extension of the Central Basin recycled water system. This design has been completed and includes a stub out at Lynwood Park. Additional Funding for construction is being sought by the cities.

Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park Water Conservation Project (RMC 17015): Grant to Amigos de los Rios in the amount of \$617,385 for this project which will enhance biodiversity, water quality, stormwater & urban run-off management along Rio Hondo Emerald necklace & within Peck Park by adding green infrastructure elements along River Parkway. This area is located within eastern Los Angeles County's underserved El Monte and is adjacent to County Bike Trail, residential areas and schools. Arterials cross the right of way and produce runoff and air pollution that negatively impacts river parkway and local ecosystems. The proposed multi-objective water quality project will improve watershed health, habitat, and trails along the Emerald Necklace's Rio Hondo River. It will remove invasive plants and restore biodiversity by planting over 1175 native & drought-tolerant trees and shrubs suited to multi-year droughts.

Significant invasive removal was completed in Q4 2017, with the monitoring and maintenance of previously removed areas during Spring 2018. Also during Spring 2018, 110 shrubs and 60 trees were planted representing 110% of shrubs and 40% of trees required for the grant. Regarding the retrofit of Peck Park's parking lot and creation of a bioswale adjacent to the parking lot, Amigos has submitted a parking lot concept plan to LA County Department of Public Works' Flood Control District and Army Corps of Engineers for review and approval. Amigos continues to outreach weekly to their base of supporters (through email and Facebook) to boost awareness of green infrastructure work at Peck Road Park as well.

CSUF Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure Improvement Project: The request for the RMC grant of \$1,000,000 towards the total project cost of \$3,324,655 has been withdrawn.

WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Duck Farm Project: Staff is currently submitting final sets to LA County Building and Safety Grading department to clear the project for construction and for permits to be pulled. An updated application for Public Health Department approval related to restroom facility is in process and will be reviewed for approval within two weeks of submittal to Environmental Health permit.

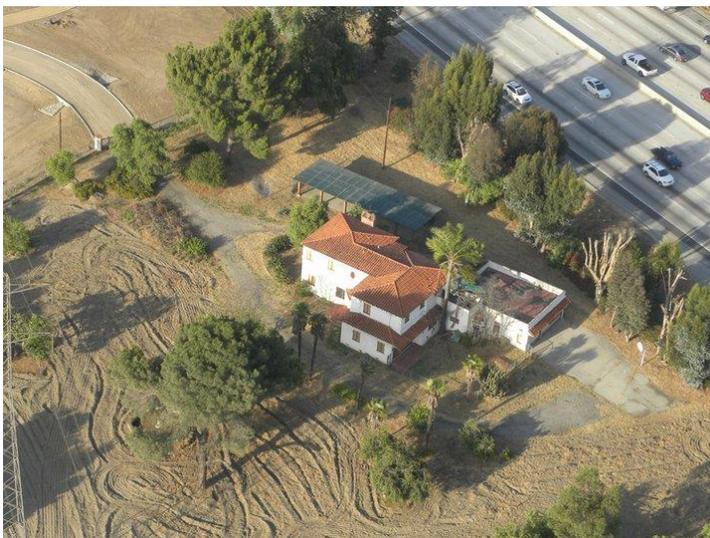
Construction Manager and A/E completed value engineering of Construction Documents and preparation of Engineer's V/E estimate and request for bid package to be published by the end of June. Publication will run for 21 days and a mandatory bid walk will be scheduled during this period. Project is working toward awarding a construction contract this summer. A presentation to update project delivery and strategy for implementation will be given during this Board Meeting, as well as, and action to consider approval to apply for and accept gap funding.

Additionally, WCA is responding to comments from the California Department of Industrial Relations on our Labor Compliance Program (LCP) submittal. Updates were made and resubmitted for final approval of the program. Having an approved LCP is a requirement of the State Bond funding WCA was granted for implementation of this project. Information related to the LCP and prevailing wage requirements will be included in the Request for Bids notice.



The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.

Duck Farm House Landscape and Water Project: is a functional demonstration of practical water capture and conservation strategies including native plants and habitat that most anyone can achieve in their own home landscapes. In March 2018, the WCA accepted \$891,200 in grant funds from the RMC to implement the project. Images below show an aerial view of the project site and a concept plan.



Emerald Necklace: No change this period. WCA participated in an LA County Department of Public Works hosted on-site planning charrette on April 7th for the Rosemead Complete Streets Project within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. This project is closely related to the priority projects identified in the EMNECK

plan, specifically priority project #5. Additionally, WCA staff toured priority project areas with LA County Parks and Recreation Trails Planning staff in April to orientate new staff of both Agencies to the EMNECK opportunities within the Upper reach of the plan.

EMERALD NECKLACE

FEASIBILITY STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PHASE I

The Emerald Necklace is an extraordinary 17-mile loop of bicycle and multi-use trails which links parks and open spaces along two waterways, the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Phase I's 16 projects will close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to hundreds of thousands of constituents. Ongoing efforts will also add gateways, signage and grooming. Further phases identified in the feasibility study will continue to expand the system in following years, contingent on funding and public support.

Westside Multi-Use Trail:

A Trail for All User Groups

The goal of this trail is to provide a continuous loop around the Emerald Necklace that connects all users and provides a safe and secure environment for all users. The trail will be a multi-use trail that is suitable for all users and provides a safe and secure environment for all users.

- 12. **Multi-Use Trail:** From Alhambra Wash from State Highway 60 to the Glendora Community Center via Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13. **Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.**
- 14. **Street Access Gaps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage**
- 15. **10 Freeway Underpass Improve Access**
- 16. **Multi-Use Trail:** Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.

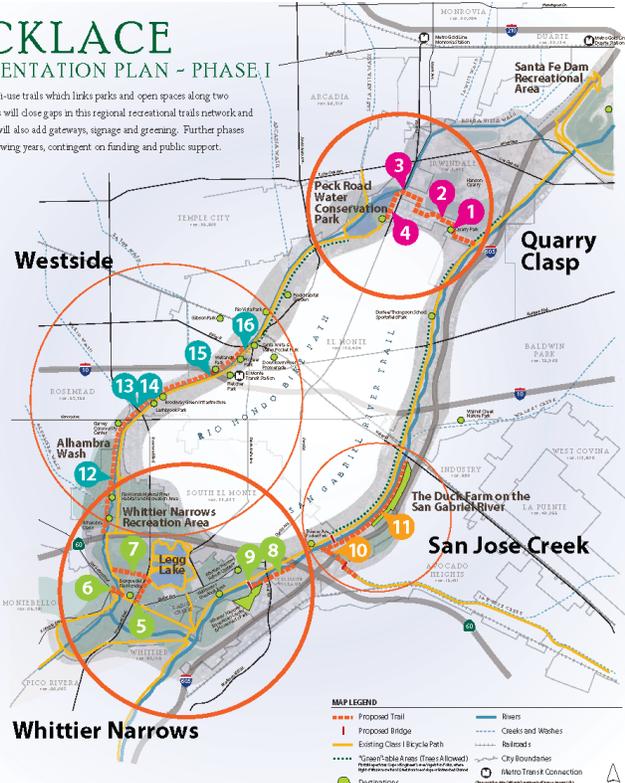
Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

Linking Existing Park Resources

This section of the trail will connect the existing trails along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. The trail will be a multi-use trail that is suitable for all users and provides a safe and secure environment for all users.

- 5. **Class I Bicycle Path:** Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Legg Lake
- 6. **Class I Bicycle Path:** From El Estoque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signage & Wayfinding
- 7. **Class I Bicycle Path:** From the Rio Hondo to Legg Lake through the Southern California Edison Easement
- 8. **Multi-Use Trail:** Puller's Village from State Highway 60 to Horseshoe Park
- 9. **Multi-Use Bridge:** Puller's Bridge at Horseshoe Park

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Quarry Clasp:

Completing the Loop

Multi-Use Trail from Peck Road Water Conservation Park to the San Gabriel River will connect the trail to the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River.

- 1. **Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities**
- 2. **Multi-Use Trail and Public Paths**
- 3. **Signalized Crossing at Peck Road with Signage and Wayfinding**
- 4. **The Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path Connection in Peck Road Water Conservation Park**

San Jose Creek Regional Access:

Connecting Communities East of the San Gabriel River

This section of the trail will connect the existing trails along the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. The trail will be a multi-use trail that is suitable for all users and provides a safe and secure environment for all users.

- 10. **Multi-Use Trail and 2 Multi-Use Bridges:** From San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail
- 11. **Multi-Use Trail:** From San Jose Creek to the Deck Farm on the San Gabriel River



The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in the south.

The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.

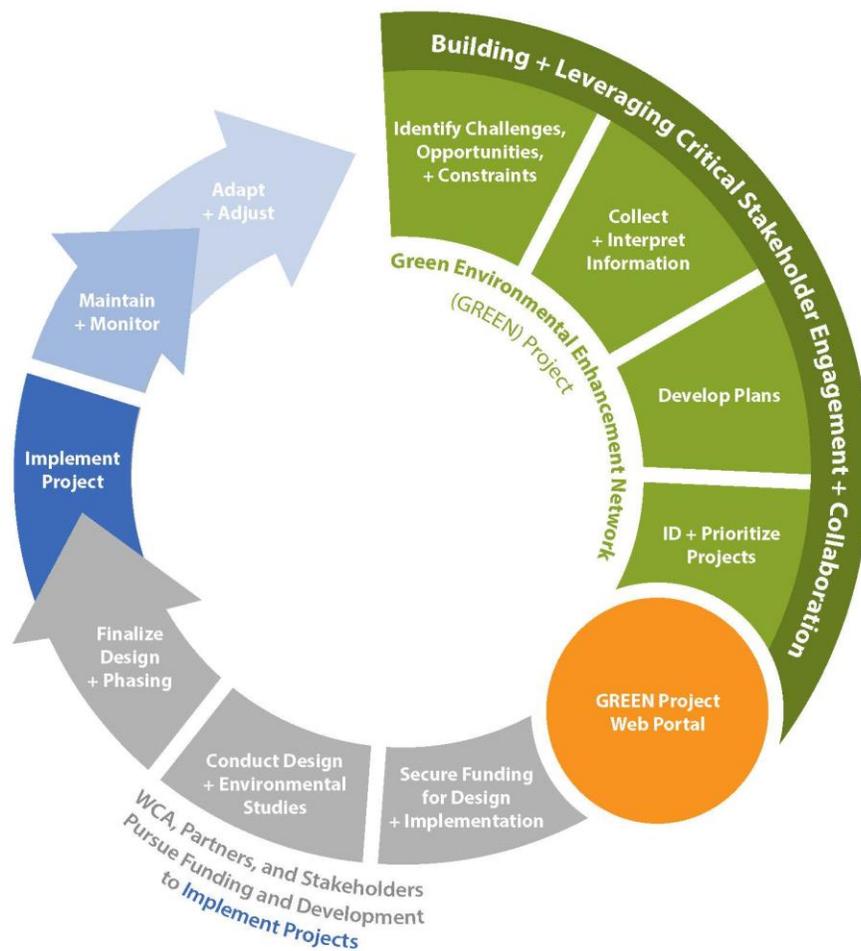
San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities: WCA is working with the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to develop the programs methodology for property identification, evaluation, and prioritization. A Technical Approach draft report for each city will then be generated to evaluate and summarize opportunities for acquisition and feasibility of acquisition, which will identify public/private parcels and provide general market data. Prioritization of key parcels with high ecological and recreational value will be identified, as well as maintenance considerations. Initial deliverables related to methodology development were received for comment and continue to be developed with an emphasis on outlining the final contents of a strategic narrative report giving clear guidance on management and long-term operations.

An initial draft deliverable will be focused on opportunities within the City of La Verne, while following up with known opportunities related to Glendora Community Conservancy and several willing sellers in the

foothill region. Comments will be provided on the draft deliverable, updates made and then a full rollout of the methodology and reports will begin to be generated for the rest of the study area.

San Gabriel Mountains Foothills Open Space Acquisition Master Plan Project, will develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations strategy to preserve critical habitat and open space, improve watershed health and increase public access for compatible uses such as multi-use trails and related passive recreational amenities along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

GREEN Project Staff is working with web developers to build out the Green Portal and the regional planning deliverable for the separately funded Gateway Cities and Rivers Greening Plan content. WCA is targeting a soft launch of this portal for September 2018. This framework will be built upon with additional mapping features developed with Dr. Weimin Li of Cal Poly Pomona and database features not expected for either the soft launch or the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening project scope. WCA staff is continuing to participate in stakeholder coordination on a variety of regional greening initiatives as part of the GREEN Project deliverables.

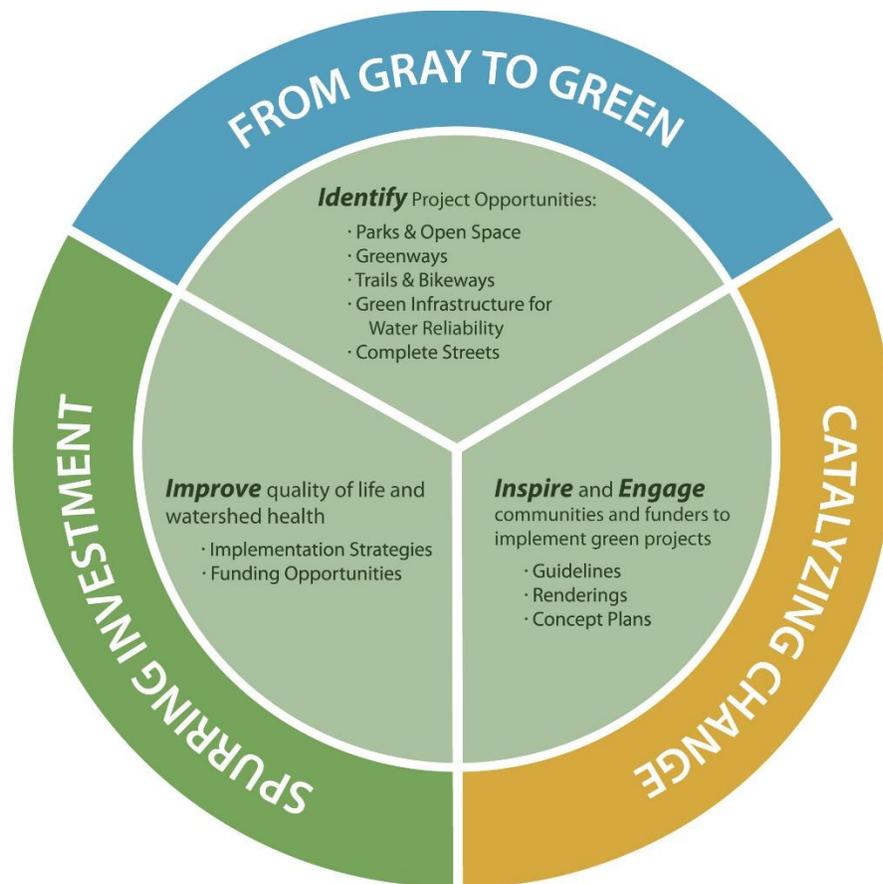


The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and

assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.

Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan: WCA staff, in coordination with consultants brought on board for conceptual design and imagery, are working to draft and upload written content as well as visual support, renderings, and the results of mapping analysis to the Gateway Greening online toolkit in preparation for a soft launch in September 2018. The design and development of the web portal is also ongoing in coordination with consultants. WCA continues to meet with representatives of Gateway Cities governments to workshop how the deliverable would be most useful to them and solicit project information to include on the site. The completed content will be the final deliverable for the plan.

WCA recently presented the project to the Gateway Cities Council of Governments Board of Directors as well as the Planning Directors Committee to highlight progress in outreach, website design, and concept renderings. The team simultaneously developing a series of perspective renderings and overhead plans to communicate the concepts and strategies of the Urban Greening portal. A meeting was held with Dr. Weimin Li on June 11th to guide her contract for geospatial analysis toward closure at the end of the month. Advisory meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, with the next meeting planned for Tuesday July 17th.



With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.

Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve: WCA is working with an Eagle Scout to plan, design and implement an improvement at the Mount Baldy Preserve. The proposed interpretive and dedication sign site enhancements including native plants and associated beautification elements as well as an educational kiosk for site specific displayed material. Additionally, WCA continues to work with MRCA Rangers, County Sheriffs, residents, and volunteers to support continued on-site maintenance at the Mt. Baldy Preserve property. To further support this coordination, WCA purchased and installed a job box on-site to facilitate equipment and supply sharing between staff, residents, and volunteers.

Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority's territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.

River Wilderness Park: WCA is currently supporting LA County Department of Public Works in preparing for and to apply for Cycle 4 ATP grant funding program to fund Roundabout and associated trail connection and safe-crossing features. DPW will take the lead to manage the design, permitting and construction of the Roundabout portion of the project. Staff will, concurrently, engage with Caltrans and the City of Azusa related to permitting, as well as, consider options for bringing public utilities to the park.

To date, \$2,752,860 of the estimated cost of \$6,495,000 has been secured. Staff continues to pursue other grant opportunities and will apply to those for which the project can be competitive. Unfortunately, our application for a State Parks Outdoor Education Grant (\$463,000) was unsuccessful for the educational features and outdoor classroom facility.

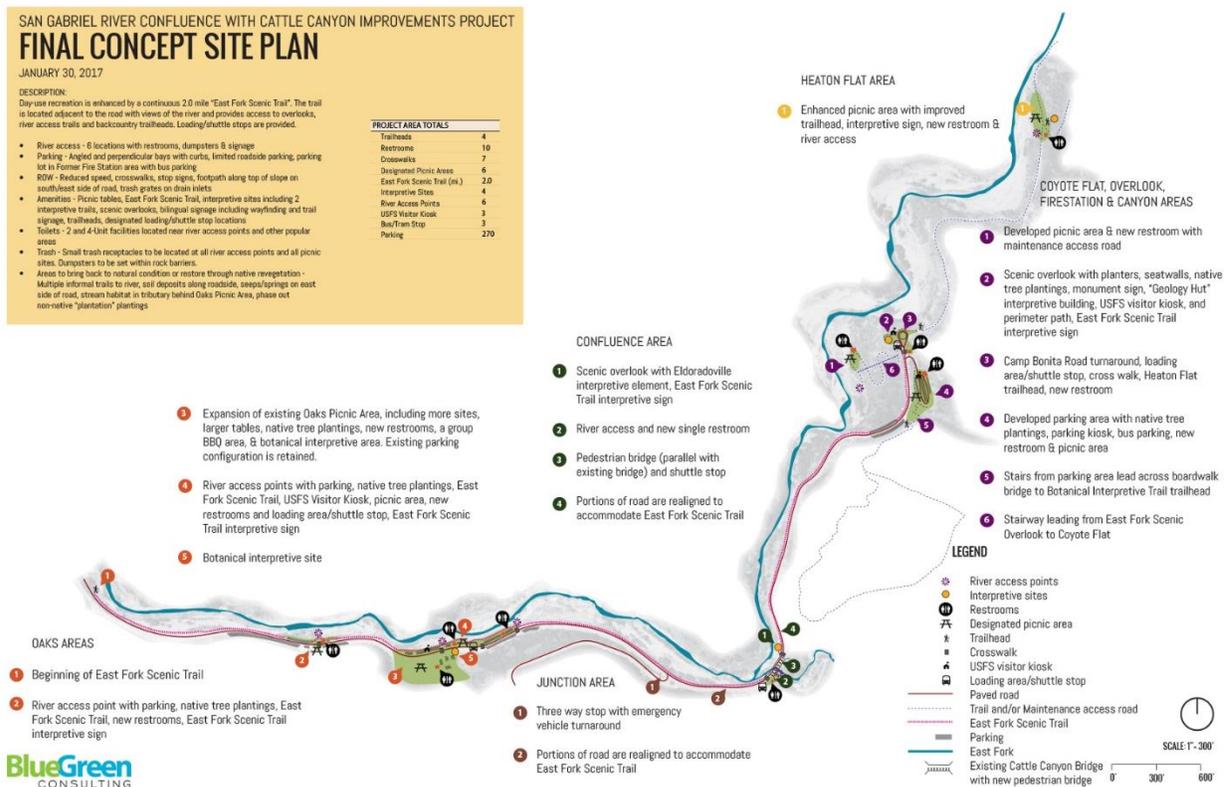


The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project: The Draft EIS/EIR was publicly released for comment on November 9, 2017 for a 45-day comment period (ended December 26th, 2017). Two public meetings were held. The first public meeting was held on Saturday November 18th, 2017 at WCA’s offices. The second public meeting was held on December 5, 2017 at Angeles National Forest Headquarters in Arcadia. Both meetings were well attended, each with over 50 attendees—see image below of the Deputy Monument Manager (Adrienne Dunfee) speaking at the December 5th meeting.

During the public comment period, we received nearly 500 comments. 400 of the comments were generated using a form letter template created by Sierra Club (which is positive and highlights areas of plan improvements that their members have expressed); there are roughly 100 unique comments submitted.

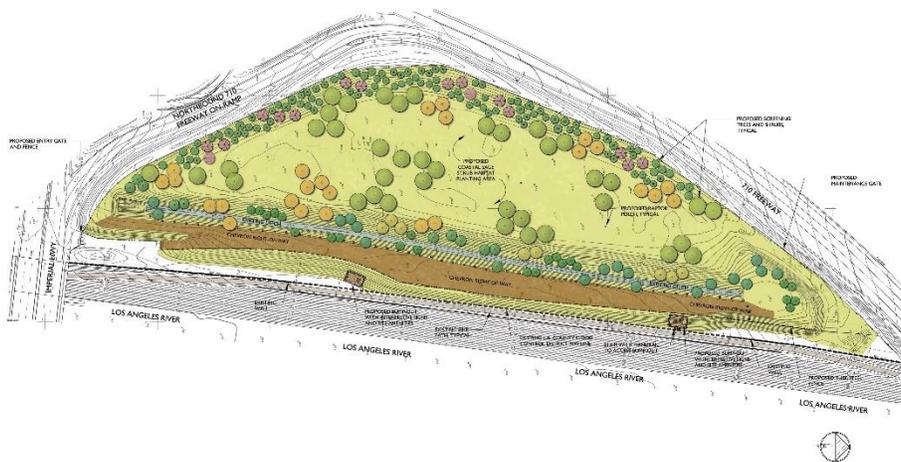
The Project Team, which includes Forest Service staff, WCA, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA, is in the process of analyzing the comments, preparing responses and, where necessary, incorporating changes into a Final EIS/EIR. WCA staff is targeting bringing the Final EIR to the September 2018 Board Meeting for consideration for adoption and certification.



Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use, and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.

South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios: Long Beach Conservation Corps is finalizing its subcontractor contracts and will submit final schedule of values and schedule for WCA staff to review and award the Contract for Construction previously approved by the Board for award. Homeless encampments on the property may delay the anticipated July 2018 Construction start date. Staff is awaiting an update from Caltrans, County of Los Angeles and/or CHP related to their outreach and relocation efforts. In the meantime, once the LBCC contract is executed, LBCC will begin to pull permits and schedule a ground-breaking event.

Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.



Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space: The WCA, working with both the City of San Dimas and the Tzu Chi Foundation, is working toward the establishment of a license or MOU agreement with TCF to establish permission to construct and utilize the spur trail connection over TCF property. This interim solution will eventually be replaced with WCA obtaining fee title over the parcel through a mutually beneficial land swap with the TCF to clean up old land boundaries between the property holders. A survey to establish the extent of the interim solution license/agreement is anticipated to be completed this summer. As of May 29th, the City of San Dimas completed their demolition of existing buildings to complete site preparation in anticipation of trail construction beginning this Fall. A meeting with the City of San Dimas is scheduled for June 20th to develop an implementation strategy and develop a schedule to complete the project.

WCA is also implementing a Metropolitan Water District's Innovative Conservation Program grant to test planting technologies to support native revegetation of the project site. WCA has completed Task 1 of that agreement and has reported to MWD. Procurement of the cocoon materials will begin in September to meet a Fall/Winter planting window and will be followed by a monitoring program to document the effectiveness of the product.

WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



Figure dated October 4, 2016

Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.

After completing a conceptual development plan in coordination with the City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors. This will realize the improvements necessary to provide public access over a portion of the Project Site through the Antonovich Trail, accessible from four nearby County-operated trail staging areas.

SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY

San Gabriel Discovery Center Authority: SGRDCA continues to submit monthly project progress reports to Los Angeles Sanitation Districts as the Authority continues to receive funds from the Supplemental Environmental Project for administrative costs. April 9th, 2018, SGRDCA executive officer met with John Wicker and Alina Bokde at the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (LADPR) Alhambra office to discuss next steps for the project, including the response and coordination with partners, funders and policy makers. April 20th, 2018, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County released Administrative Civil Liability Order No. R4-2006-0040, First Quarter 2018 Report on San Gabriel River Discovery Center Supplemental Environmental Project to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

SGRDCA has cancelled the tentatively scheduled May 24th SGRDCA Board meeting. In the upcoming months, SGRDCA will attend a meeting (to be scheduled by LADPR) with Los Angeles County Supervisorial District 1 Office and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano's office to discuss next steps.



The San Gabriel River Discovery Center Project is 5.9 redevelopment that will replace the existing Whittier Narrows Nature Center (WNNC) with the following enhancements: constructed wetland, naturalized bioswale, Walnut Woodland restoration, habitat buffer, two outdoor classrooms, interpretive center with exhibits, vehicular access and parking, pedestrian pathways and other interpretive elements. The Center's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship by providing accessible and engaging watershed and environmental education to the public.

AZUSA-RMC JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

The Authority approved the budget for fiscal year 2018/19 at the next meeting on June 14, 2018. There was a presentation and discussion on the status of the Garcia Trail and the Azusa River Wilderness Park at the meeting which took place at the Azusa River Wilderness Park/El Encanto Building in Azusa. The Authority will continue to look for funding opportunities to support maintaining the site and potentially restore the Garcia Trail.

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY

In August 2017, The LCWA approved a contract to the consulting firm of Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to provide consultant services on the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Program Environmental Impact Report (LCWA 16003). This contract scope includes the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) which was approved by the LCWA Board in 2107. The consultant, ESA, will perform a scope of services that includes the development of an optimized restoration plan, the production of a program Environmental Impact Report for the restoration plan, and associated public outreach and project management. The proposed study is for 2 years and 3 months with an anticipated completion date by November 3, 2019 for not to exceed contract amount of \$800,000.

The project will result in the adoption of a Program EIR for which the LCWA will be the Lead Agency. Both the restoration planning and development of the EIR will include a public involvement process.

This contract will be funded by Proposition 1 Grant Funds awarded to the LCWA by the State Coastal Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration. The performance period for this contract is August 3, 2017 - November 3, 2019. Additional information regarding the Conceptual Restoration Plan can be found at <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org>.

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) hosted the first public workshop for the next phase of restoration planning for Los Cerritos Wetlands on March 28, 2018 at the Mary Wilson Library in Seal Beach. This phase will build on the previous work completed for the Conceptual Restoration Plan and will culminate in a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Using information contained in the Final LCW CRP, an optimized restoration design for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands complex is currently being developed. This alternative will be studied, and potential impacts analyzed in the Program EIR.

This Program EIR is the next step in the LCWA's efforts to provide a comprehensive restoration framework for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Past work completed by the LCWA includes identification of existing opportunities and constraints for restoration, public access and interpretation, and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan (LCW CRP). The Final LCW CRP was adopted by the LCWA Board of Directors in August 2015.

The LCWA's consulting team, spearheaded by Environmental Science Associates (ESA), led the public through a workshop that provided a refresher of previous efforts and an overview of the steps ahead. Twenty-eight members of the public attended the meeting and filled out a questionnaire about public access at Los Cerritos Wetlands. Their responses will be incorporated into the optimized restoration design.

A draft optimized restoration plan is expected to be released to the public Fall 2018.

Regarding acquisition activities, the LCWA received approval from the Department of General Services on an appraisal report on the Bryant Properties. Their next step is to move into final negotiations with the land owner to acquire the properties.

LCWA received funding from the US Forest Services' Eco Voices Program to conduct educational programming during the summer. This will include fieldtrips for kids to the Los Cerritos Wetlands and San Gabriel Mountains. The first event is expected to take place on July 12, 2018.

Finally, LCWA has ongoing monthly public programs at Los Cerritos Wetlands through the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program which includes kayaking tours on a regular basis in collaboration with Tidal Influence as a way to inform and engage the public regarding the Los Cerritos Wetlands. See the attached flyer for additional information.

ALL PROGRAMS MEET
**@ 1st Street and PCH
 in Seal Beach!**
 See map on reverse
 for location



Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Events January - June 2018

Guided Nature Walks

LCW Land Trust sponsors guided nature walks
8:00 am - 10:00 am on the 1st Saturday of each month
 Contact: elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org for details
Upcoming Dates: Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Mar 3rd, Apr 7th, May 5th, Jun 2nd

Habitat Restoration Events

10:30 am - 12:30 pm on the 1st Saturday of each month
 Contact: info@tidalinfluence.com for details
Upcoming Dates: Jan 6th, Feb 3rd, Mar 3rd, Apr 7th, May 5th, June 2nd
 Participants are eligible to win prizes at each event!

El Dorado Audubon Bird Walks

El Dorado Audubon sponsors 2 monthly bird walks in 2 different areas of Los Cerritos Wetlands
Hellman Property: 8:00 am - 10:00 am on the 2nd Saturday of each month
Jan 13th, Feb 10th, March 10th, April 14th, May 12th, June 9th
Zedler Marsh Property: 4th Sunday of each month *note different times for certain months
Jan 28th & Feb 25th 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Mar 25th & April 22nd 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
May 27th & June 24th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Contact eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com for details

What do I need to know?

- *Close-toed shoes are required for all programs
- *These wetlands are wildlands, dress accordingly
- *We encourage bringing reusable water bottles!
- *Service-learning credits provided at all events!
- *Children under the age of 14 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult
- *Participants receive exclusive access to explore and restore Los Cerritos Wetlands!
- *If interested in group restoration or education opportunities
Contact:
info@tidalinfluence.com
- *Want to learn more about Los Cerritos Wetlands?
Visit our website:
www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org

